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CALIFORNIA COUNTIES RECEIVE \$4.1 MILLION FOR METHAMPHETAMINE TREATMENT

CALIFORNIA — Kern, Mendocino, and San Mateo counties were among the 11 U.S. counties chosen by the Health and Human Services Agency to receive three-year grants to treat methamphetamine abuse in rural communities.

“We are seeing more and more methamphetamine addicts in California’s publicly funded treatment programs,” said Kathryn P. Jett, Director of the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs. “Methamphetamine is a powerful and dangerous stimulant drug. It physically destroys the addict and families are torn apart due to the continued use of methamphetamine by one or both parents.”

On any given day in California there are more than 33,000 people in publicly funded treatment for methamphetamine addiction - it is estimated there are up to 500,000 methamphetamine users in California. In California, admissions to treatment for methamphetamine addiction have steadily increased and California now leads the nation with the largest methamphetamine treatment population.

In Kern county methamphetamine addiction accounted for approximately 51% of publicly funded treatment admissions in 2003-2004, followed by Mendocino at 46%, and San Mateo at 26%.

Kern County Rural Targeted Capacity Expansion Project will receive \$1.4 million to expand adult outpatient methamphetamine treatment services. Mendocino County Department of Public Health was awarded \$1.5 million to increase capacity treatment services to help 360 methamphetamine users. San Mateo County Human Services Agency received \$1.1 million to serve the rural low and moderate-income population.

The Federal grants come at a time when there are many who still believe that methamphetamine addicts are not treatable. Research findings from UCLA and the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs show that methamphetamine users respond to treatment as well as individuals with other alcohol and drug problems.

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